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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD, JR., AND E. D. COPE.

— Posthumous fame is doubtless of greater benefit to the community at large than to the person commemorated by it. The former are taught the possibilities of life by the examples of those who have achieved much, and are stimulated by it to exertion and to success. One of the most impressive forms of commemoration is the erection of statues in public places. The general public, especially those who do not read, are compelled to learn history when it is taught in the object lessons of the sculptor's and painter's arts. It has been the custom to erect statues to successful military men from time immemorial, and the United States has not been slow to follow the example of older countries. European nations, both ancient and modern, have also made statues of their philosophers, statesmen and artists, and although America has not yet immortalized many of her own sons in this way, she will probably do so ere long. We have statues of Humboldt, Shakespeare and other foreign worthies in our parks, but very few of our own masters have been so commemorated. We therefore look with pleasure on the movements to erect statues to Professor Henry, to Longfellow, and to Alexander L. Holley. England will erect a statue to Darwin and place it in South Kensington.

But an excellent method of attaining the same end is the establishment of scholarships bearing the name of the person whose memory it is important to preserve. It is greatly to be hoped that the subscription for the endowment of the Leidy chair of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, will be successful. This proposition is the more meritorious, since it is designed to benefit the present incumbent, Professor Joseph Leidy, during his life, as well as to commemorate his services to science.

The American committee selected to prepare a fitting memorial of Darwin in this country, are considering the advisability, as we understand, of creating a scholarship bearing his name, which shall support an American student of biology at some of the best schools of Europe. It is to be hoped that such a desirable proposition may be carried into effect.

The Bi-Centennial Association of Pennsylvania has issued a circular which sets forth a plan for the creation of a series of

prizes for works in science and art, commemorative of the establishment of the Commonwealth by Penn two hundred years ago. The competitors must be natives or residents of Pennsylvania, and the sums awarded are \$500 to \$1000. The prizes will be mostly presented to the association by private persons, and will bear their names. A number of them have been subscribed. Such prizes, numerous in Europe, are rare here, and are a most effective method of stimulating the higher forms of intellectual effort.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

LUBBOCK'S ANTS, BEES AND WASPS.¹—This volume is a reprint, with some omission of details, of Sir John Lubbock's papers which were read before the Linnæan Society of London. The volume is mainly devoted to ants, with a few pages referring to bees and wasps. The book is an important contribution to animal psychology, and is almost entirely a fresh record of facts observed by the author, who only refers to the observations of other naturalists for the purpose of introducing his own. Lubbock is a patient and most impartial observer, and is reticent as to ultimate questions, his method being purely inductive. However, at the outset Sir John feels disposed to place the ants next to man in intelligence, a position which may be disputed, as purely reasoning processes are perhaps at least as frequently observed in the mammals and birds, particularly the domesticated kinds, as in ants or bees.

We will now rapidly note the original discoveries of our author, such as prove to be additions to our stock of knowledge of insect mental traits. Lubbock is the first to show that in ants (*Myrmica ruginodis*), the queens have the instinct of bringing up larvæ and the power of founding communities; and not queens only, but, as has been shown by Denny, Lespès, Dewitz, and proved by Forel, the workers will lay eggs which produce males. Lubbock has further proved that the worker eggs only produce males. While it has formerly been supposed that ants live but one year, Lubbock kept two queens over seven years, and they "are probably more than eight years old." They seem in perfect health, and in 1881 laid fertile eggs, a fact which suggests physiological conclusions of great interest. He also has workers "more than six years old."

While English ants do not, as in warmer countries, lay up food for the winter, "they do more, for they keep during six months the eggs which will enable them to procure food during the following summer, a case of prudence unexampled in the animal kingdom."

¹ *Bees, Ants and Wasps*. A record of observations on the habits of the social Hymenoptera. By Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, Bart. New York, D. Appleton & Co.